

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Tool path data generation apparatus (41) that can speedily and securely generate tool path data on the basis of CAD data. The tool path data generation apparatus (41) includes a feature data extractor (6) to extract features in relation to at least a three-dimensional shape of a workpiece, a tool/cutting data storage (8) to store a cutting mode etc. in accordance with a feature shape, a cutting method setting unit (9) to set an optimal cutting method for each feature shape on the basis of the extracted feature data and the stored tool/cutting data, and a tool path data generator (13) to generate tool path data on the basis of set cutting method. An operator doesn't have to input any data in generating tool path data, therefore tool path data can be speedily generated.